

Explorers

Fountain Head Business Park, Etherley, BISHOP AUCKLAND, County Durham DL14 0LZ



Inspection date	16 October 2018
Previous inspection date	10 December 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is outstanding

- Staff have expert knowledge of the different ways that children learn. They provide highly appealing activities that are closely matched to children's interests and learning preferences. Plans to support individual children to build on what they already know and can do are exemplary.
- Children have superb opportunities to learn about the natural world. For example, babies explore a range of natural resources and textures, while toddlers examine bugs they find.
- Leaders scrutinise all aspects of practice to find ways to enhance outcomes for children. A culture of reflection and improvement is deeply embedded throughout the whole staff team, and parents are consulted about all developments. For example, they attend 'critical friends' meetings where their views are gathered and acted upon swiftly.
- Children are remarkably enthusiastic learners who are consistently absorbed in activities. Their deep level of engagement in their learning contributes to the excellent progress they make.
- Parents consistently praise staff for their efforts to help children to feel secure and confident, particularly when they first start nursery or move to the next room. Highly effective arrangements help children to settle very quickly. They swiftly feel confident and at ease and develop warm, highly supportive relationships with staff.
- Partnerships with parents, other settings and professionals are well embedded. Excellent communication between all those involved with children helps to reinforce their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- continue to evaluate the impact of new planning systems on the rates of progress made by children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed its impact on children's learning and development.
- The inspector had a tour of all the areas of the nursery.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of an activity with the deputy manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and the deputy manager. She looked at a range of documents, including evidence of the suitability checks carried out on staff.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She also spoke to a number of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector
Clare Wilkins

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have excellent knowledge of issues that may affect a child's welfare and know what to do if they have any concerns. Continuous risk assessments help to provide a safe environment and accident records are scrutinised. Staff supervision is highly effective. Leaders have very high expectations and staff are eager to build on their qualifications. Professional development is focused on improving outcomes for children. For example, staff develop their understanding of how best to promote boys' learning. This helps to drive ongoing improvements to the already outstanding teaching. Leaders closely monitor staff's teaching. They are currently reviewing the recent changes to how staff plan for children's learning, to analyse the impact this has on the rates of progress children make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff focus sharply on following children's ideas as they play and use spontaneous opportunities to build on their learning. They ensure the environment ignites children's curiosity and interests. For example, the construction area has been extended to engage boys further. They become engrossed while taking appliances apart with screwdrivers and spanners. Staff recognise that this helps to develop control and coordination, ready for writing. Group activities are highly effective. Staff adapt their teaching to ensure they meet individual children's learning needs precisely. Pre-school children show great perseverance and cooperation. They work together to balance planks to build a bridge.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff focus expertly on ensuring that children are taught how to keep themselves safe. Children demonstrate high levels of self-control and a remarkable understanding of risks. They explain how to use scissors safely and they independently mop up spillages from the water tray. Children understand the reasons for boundaries in the outdoor areas and adhere to them at all times. Mealtimes are relaxed occasions where staff seize opportunities to promote children's independence and social skills. Older children help to serve meals and babies capably feed themselves. Children flourish in the care of nurturing staff who know them extremely well. They demonstrate very high levels of self-esteem. The baby room is a very tranquil environment. Children are calm, engaged and giggle as they play.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress and achieve exceptionally well. They are extremely well prepared for school. Those who show risk of slight delay in their learning are identified swiftly and benefit from first-rate interventions that help them to make rapid progress. Achievements in literacy and mathematics are above expectations. Pre-school children benefit from a language-rich environment and develop an excellent knowledge of letters and the sounds they represent. They use mathematical language frequently during play and begin to solve number problems independently.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY484958
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10062722
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	86
Number of children on roll	99
Name of registered person	Whitaker, Jenna Louise
Registered person unique reference number	RP909786
Date of previous inspection	10 December 2015
Telephone number	01388833637

Explorers registered in 2015. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, 10 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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